

SUPPORT TO COCHABAMBA

Through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government has a broad assistance program that supports the Bolivia Government's National Development Plan.



A group of landowners in the Chapare region of Cochabamba proudly receive their land titles through USAID's Bolivian Land Titling Program.

Through its official assistance agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government supports more than 30 municipalities in the Department of Cochabamba.

1. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE POPULATION

USAID programs directly support the productive pillar of Bolivia's National Development Plan. Through our assistance, more than 12,000 producers in the valleys of Cochabamba are now selling a variety of products for domestic and international markets including the United States. They include onions, peanuts, hot peppers, spices, tomatoes, peaches, and dairy products. For example, when USAID assisted approximately 7,000 families across ten municipalities to improve their onion crop, the crop's international sales gave participating families a 75 percent income boost.

USAID has strengthened financial institutions and credit unions with innovative services. At the end of 2005, USAID helped to finance a branch of the San José de Punata Credit Union in Cliza. The agency also helped launch an electronic transaction system "ServiRed", based in the city of Cochabamba. Through a Rural Finance Expansion Grant, USAID helped open another credit union branch in Vinto and a Prodem branch in Tarata to expand micro credit services. All of these activities increased financial services to underserved populations in both urban and rural communities.

USAID also supports Bolivia's textile, apparel and timber industries, generating approximately \$1.1million in exports to the United States and Europe. Our technical assistance is improving business practices and product quality, creating more domestic and international sales.

2. INTEGRATED ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

USAID's Integrated Alternative Development program introduces farmers to alternate cash crops to discourage the production of cocaine-producing coca as well as expanding access to public services.

In Cochabamba, the program provides farmers with alternatives to coca such as bananas, heart of palm, pineapple, and papaya. These efforts build local support for the Government of Bolivia's coca control efforts. Partners include farmers, grower associations, businesses, municipalities, and rural communities. The program also provides funding for road construction, community development activities,

disease control, natural resource management, land titling, and techniques that make crops more competitive.

The program supports Bolivia's ability to control coca production and complements other counter-narcotics efforts supported by both the U.S. and Bolivia. The Integrated Alternative Development program directly supports the Bolivia's National Development Plan.

3. IMPROVED ACCESS TO JUSTICE

USAID works with Bolivia to strengthen democratic institutions and improve the justice system. Since 2004, in coordination with Bolivia's Ministry of Justice and judicial branch, the agency has supported the Integrated Justice Center in Chimoré, in the Chapare region. The center offers conciliation and dispute resolution, legal support for victims of domestic violence and other services that support citizen access to justice. In addition, USAID has worked with the judicial branch, the public ministry and the *Fuerza Especial de Lucha Contra el Crimen* to strengthen customer services in their offices in Cochabamba, improving citizen access to legal services.

4. IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF BOLIVIANS

With U.S. support, Bolivia's largest private health network, PROSALUD, provides health care to about 500,000 people each year from low-income families in six Bolivian departments. In Cochabamba, we support PROSALUD's clinic that serves about 30,000 people each year as well as CIES, a Bolivian organization specializing in integrated care for women and infants. It operates two clinics in the Cochabamba city and Quillacollo neighborhoods. CIES facilities served about 30,000 people in 2006.

In addition, a community health project called Partners for Development is fighting Chagas disease by improving some 100 households in two rural communities. One method involves using modern building materials—replacing straw roofs with tile—to prevent insects that carry the disease from nesting in homes.

5. ENVIRONMENT

USAID has provided key logistical and administrative support to Carrasco National Park in setting its boundaries in consultation with local and national authorities and interests and has helped to develop income generating opportunities for more than 6,500 families in this region.

6. EFFECTIVE DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNMENTS

As it does worldwide, USAID is providing basic institutional strengthening technical assistance and training to Bolivia's departmental governments to help them assume more effectively their new roles in planning, financing, and delivering services to citizens.



USAID programs in Cochabamba give assistance to farmers , grower associations, businesses, municipalities, and rural communities.